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SPOKE

Vol 26 No. 14 Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario April 18, 1994

Technology students earn 10 scholarships

By Robert Gray

Kitchener MP John English was at Conestoga College Wednesday April 6 to present Canada Scholarships in Technology to 10 Conestoga students

The awards are given to recognize academic excellence and encourage more of Canada s most promising students to pursue technology studies and careers as technicians and technologists.

"I think they (scholarships) important not simply because of any financial award attached to them but in the sense of accomplishment that it gives to students, English said in an interview

I know it matters to students having been an educator myself for 21 years. Nothing matters more than recognition and the way the students hang on one word which you may say casually It s important to recognize excellence "

The Canada Scholarships Program (CSP) was started in 1988 to counter two trends

First, overall enrolment in Canadian universities was up but enrolment in natural sciences and engineering was decreasing.

And while overall enrolment in colleges was in a steady decline the enrolment in natural sciences engineering and primary industrial technologies was especially low

The second area of concern was the under representation of women in most natural science and engineering undergraduate programs as well as in most technical and technological programs in Canada

To help offset these trends the CSP program annually awards a minimum of 2,500 scholarships to top Canadian students entering undergraduate studies in the natural sciences and engineering

In 1993-94 the program will provide 900 scholarships to students pursuing technology programs at community colleges

The scholarships are worth $2,500 per year up to four years at the university level and three years at the college level subject to continued first class academic achievement.

President Tibbits in a speech during the awards ceremony said the college is very appreciative of the federal government s initiative to provide scholarships in the college milieu

Michelle Bendo a mechanical engineering technology design and analysis student was awarded a scholarship in mechanical engineering technology

She said she was shocked at winning The registrar s office took care of the details of entering eligible students so she didn t know she was eligible for the award until shortly before the presentation.

The other nine recipients were Lynda Keirr Patrick Neumann Bradley Sinkhe and Neville Zuzarte in mechanical engineering technology Gaby Meyer and Russ Snowden in electronics engineering technician Karin Sousa Brian Tucker and Kenneth Walt in electronics engineering technology

Kitchener MP John English speaks at the Canada Scholarships award ceremony April 6 (Photo by Robert Gray)

Credit cards now cover tuition

By John Cinezan

If you are returning to Conestoga College next year you can pay the annual tuition fees with your Visa or Mastercard

"In addition to the two major credit cards a student may also pay using debit banking" said college registrar Betty Martin

Debit banking involves money taken directly out of you account using your bank card.

"With the introduction of debit banking this fall we thought we'd also introduce the credit card payment option as well," she said

Martin said there have been many inquiries from parents wanting to pay their children s tuition fees with a credit card That s why the credit card form of payment has been introduced.

Fanshawe College in London as well as all the Toronto community colleges already have credit card payment Cash cheque and money orders are still more than welcome she said

Martin reminded students who expect financial aid to apply to the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) early to avoid the headaches of waiting for money after the school year has started

She also said there are two options available to students who are expecting financial difficulty The first is a fee deferral form that can be obtained from the registrar s office It costs $25 to extend the deadline paying your tuition fees However to apply you must have a student information document that says you have been approved for OSAP and that it s on its way

The second option involves paying two-thirds of your year s tuition up front and paying the remainder later in the semester. The cost for this procedure is $30

The OSAP loan forgiveness levels have been raised, which means students will have less of their loan forgiven Martin said

Before the change a student attending college for a two-semester year who received OSAP did not have to pay back anything above $5 570 loaned to them New students will have to pay back $6 000 instead of $5 570 and have the rest forgiven

If a student started before the 1993-94 school year loan forgiveness will not apply to those earlier years they received OSAP since loan forgiveness had not been introduced at that time

Martin said the provincial government is working on an Income Contingent Loan Repayment Program (ICLRP) where the government would decide a repayment schedule for OSAP instead of the banks

The ICLRP would produce a repayment schedule based on your income rather than a fixed rate based on how much you borrowed

Changes being made to Honor Roll requirements

By Jason Schneider

Conestoga students will have a harder time earning academic recognition next year as the college plans to implement higher grade requirements beginning in the 1994 95 school year

Health sciences co-ordinator Bill Jeffrey is spearheading the changes because the number of students qualifying for the honor is making the convocation ceremony a time consuming event he said

The rationale is based on an academic concept that these awards are provided to a limited number of students who have received academic distinction

"In the past there have been too many students in A and A+ standing therefore a change would limit the requirement to a distinct number of students."

To currently qualify for the President s Honor List, a student must achieve an average grade of 80 per cent or higher in all courses in the final year of a diploma program or an A+ in all courses of a certificate program

Next year students must achieve a 90 per cent or higher average to make the list.

These students will receive the President s Gold Shield award and be individually recognized at the convocation ceremony

Students achieving an 80 to 89 per cent average in the final year of a diploma program or an A in a certificate program, will qualify for the Honor Roll List

These students will be recognized in the convocation program and will receive a letter of outstanding achievement from the dean of the school

"We would like those students who are directing academic goals either of these recognitions to be aware of these changes before next year begins" Jeffrey said

The current requirements will apply to students graduating this year

As far as other academic awards are concerned Jeffrey said only the James W Church Award will be affected

Currently it is open to President s Honors List recipients only but next year it will be open to students to both Honors List categories.

The new system brings all the awards and recognitions into one It was kind of spread out before Jeffrey said

Jeffrey encourages students to gain more in depth information on the changes from next year s student handbook available in September

Sports bar needs name

Conestoga College s academic management committee is running a contest to name the new sports lounge that will be built in May on the second floor of the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre

Dan Young manager of athletics and recreation at Doon said he is hoping students will be creative and submit a unique name

"Something that incorporates sports lounge into it and is in good taste

There is a committee that consists of people from the recreation centre and one Doon Student Association (DSA) member that will pick the best name by April 25 said Young

To enter students must submit the proposed name to Dan Young along with their name address and telephone number

Young said the prize has not yet been decided but "We'll make it worthwhile "

The sports lounge will be located at the north west corner of the second floor of the recreation centre and will have a seating capacity of 90 people.

SPOKE

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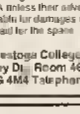
Kurt Cobain — gone, but not forgiven



By Jason Schneider

In the months to come Kurt Cobain's death will become as misunderstood as his brief and tragic life.

The lead singer and songwriter of Nirvana the band that single handedly saved rock and roll from its own an timely demise in 1991 blew his head off with a shotgun sometime during the week of April 4 at his home in Seattle Washington.

While he will intimately be remembered as the symbol for "grunge rock" Cobain could count himself among a select group of artists who possessed an aura that transcended their artform. He made people rethink their lives and the state of society as a whole.

It may be pretentious to tag him as the spokesperson for his generation but for a very brief moment — the summer of 1991 — Nirvana's album *Nevermind* captured the feelings of youth around the globe and, more importantly, frightened their parents.

And we couldn't have picked a better leader. Cobain was the product of a broken home and had no real prospects aside from assimilating himself into the burgeoning underground music scene in Seattle.

His unfortunate upbringing is now the focal point among critics who are currently debating whether Cobain was an innovator or simply won the music business lottery with deranged songs that are now being aped by every disenfranchised young musician in America.

However like the original punk bands he idolized Cobain shrugged off success thus creating a media backlash with rumors of heroin addiction, insanity and violent outbursts which all nonetheless had basis in fact.

Yet the media did not pull the trigger.

On the day his body was found, I heard a deejay say that every generation needs its martyrs. I'm sorry to admit that I agree. Cobain, like Sid Vicious Jim Morrison Robert Kennedy Malcolm X James Dean Marilyn Monroe Buddy Holly et al. has preserved his youth and will come to represent thousands of people's glory years.

He will also undoubtedly influence thousands of kids in the future though, hopefully suicide will not be the focus of their attention.

The lesson to be learned is that a person cannot survive on expressing only rage against society.

Unfortunately for Cobain by the time he became successful his cries for help went unheard by people he dealt with on a day-to-day basis. It was all a game to them. He was just feeding his ego with all the attention from the drug overdoses and temper tantrums. Oh well whatever, never mind.

When thinking about Cobain I am saddened but I must echo the words rock critic Lester Bangs wrote in an analogy to his own suicidal friend in 1977

"I volunteer not to feel anything about him from this day out, but I will not forget that this kid kicked himself for something torn T-shirts represented in the battle fires of his ripped emotions."

We will miss you Kurt but we can never forgive you.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef or an opinion please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office Room 4B15 Doon campus.

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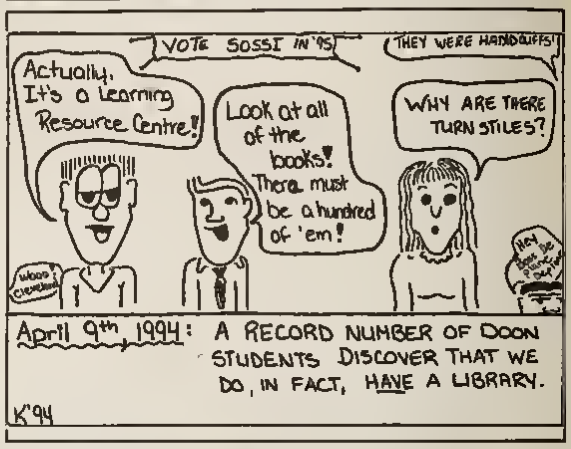
Telephone: 748-5366

OPINION



Tuition increase is short-sighted and stupid

By Jeff Erinkhof

The Ontario government's decision to hike tuition fees by 21 per cent over the next two years is both short sighted and irresponsible.

The tuition increases $92 in 1994-95 and $101 more in 1995-96 strike one of the sectors of society least able to bear it — students.

More nations than the NDP's target is Education Minister Dave Cooke's rationale for the increase. According to a ministry news release the government is increasing tuition fees to "create more opportunities for students to go to school."

This argument is more than specious it's non-sensical. Increasing tuition fees makes it harder for students to go to school not easier.

So what if there are more openings in a desired program? If the fee to enrol is priced out of reach fewer students will be able to take advantage of the existing opportunities let alone new ones.

Cooke tried to appease students with a concurrent announcement that the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) will cover the increase in future calculations of student aid.

The OSAP loan forgiveness level however will be raised from $5,570 to $6,000 per year. Students are not required to pay back the amount of their student loan surpassing these amounts in a given year.

While this adjustment will allow several students to pursue a post-secondary education it also promises a graduation $12,000 $18,000 of debt before their first day on the job. This cannot be productive.

The province seems to be creating an educational elite with only the affluent able to afford a college or university education.

One of the few roads out of poverty is education. By hiking tuition fees the NDP is actively excluding the economically disadvantaged.

They are in effect, slapping the faces of the group that has the most to gain from a university or college degree.

This course of action is suicidal.

With every prospective student who is unwilling or unable to pay the increased tuition Ontario loses a potentially highly trained member of its workforce.

We are told the coming years will demand an increased number of skilled workers. Who will fill the vacuum when industry comes clamoring for this skilled labor? The United States? Japan?

For years, government agencies have told young people to stay in school that it's the only way to guarantee your future.

You can still get service with a sneer

By Venus Cahill

I stood there waiting patiently for one of the two clerks to assist me.

The oldest of the two women was searching through a stack of files. The teenage clerk sat behind the counter with a phone clutched in her hand.

I smiled. She shifted her weight and turned her back to me. Feeling uncomfortable, I glanced helplessly at the other clerk. No luck there — still searching through the stack of files. Finally the girl on the phone signed.

"Look someone's here. Gotta go I'll call you back okay?"

She turned back to me and frowned. I tried smiling again and said, "Hi I called earlier I'm looking for Sleepwalker by June Callwood. I think a copy has been set aside for me."

Her heavily made up eyes narrowed at me again and she turned to the other clerk. There was a brief muttered discussion then she rummaged under the counter. When she resurfaced, she shoved a thin novel across the counter at me. I picked the book up — right title wrong author.

"I'm sorry," I told her. "But this isn't the book I'm looking for. This one is called Sleepwalker but it's a young adult thriller. I'm looking for a true crime courtroom case by June Callwood."

She shoved on the pencil in her hand. "Well I think Dean R. Koontz wrote a book called The Sleepwalker."

"No, I said still trying to remain calm. "The book I'm looking for is not fiction, it's a true crime and it's written by June Callwood."

She stared blankly at me. "Who's June Callwood?"

It must be too much for me to ask that someone working at a book store in Kitchener know an established author such as Callwood.

My point is not that the clerk did not know Callwood, I waited for 10 to 15 minutes at the counter for service when there were only three other customers in the store.

I would think that because of the recess on discourtesy among sales people would have declined.

With the constant threat of layoffs across Canada I would assume people would try harder to improve their consumer relations skills, if not out of kindness then because of job security.

Whatever happened to "service with a smile", "the customer is always right" and "can I help you?"

In a country known for its friendliness I just wish some of the courtesies extended to other countries could be given to consumers here at home.

DSA executive meeting briefs

The following notes and quotes were taken from the April 5 Doon Student Association executive meeting

* * *

President Geoff Pearson relayed a message he had received from Northern College informing the DSA of a province wide student walkout scheduled for April 13 at 10:15 a.m..

The walkout is to protest the tuition fee increase announced recently by the provincial government

DSA activities promotions coordinator Cole Buscombe expressed concern about what could be accomplished by a walkout

"I'm sure the teachers would be pleased with students who left their classes. If only a handful of students participated it would have a negative impact instead of a positive one."

The executive decided not to participate in the walkout which is being organized by student governments and not associated with the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA)

* * *

It was announced that the DSA had agreed to renew their contract with Spoke. Three cheques totalling $17 000 will be forwarded to the newspaper to provide funding for the coming year

* * *

Jennifer Kurt DSA vice president of administration presented a proposal for a student insurance policy that would be implemented in September 1994

The policy offered by Seaboard Life Insurance... would cover contraceptives and prescription drugs Kurt had requested coverage and premium information from several companies and felt this one would best serve the needs of Conestoga students The annual fee would be $50 54 per student The coverage would be mandatory but students could opt out of the program if they could prove they already carried similar coverage

Optional family coverage would be available for approximately $100

The DSA will present the proposal to the college s board of governors for approval

* * *

Treasurer Fenia Sossi announced the winners of Springfest activities.

Stephanie Ahrens and Colin Skea both broadcasting students won sweatshirts in the mini putt contest.

A prize of two Blue Jay s tickets was awarded to second year journalism student Jeff Brickhel for wearing Blue Jay apparel on April 4

Students express concerns over text costs

By Alan Horn

The 21 percent tuition hike facing Conestoga students over the next two years may be a wave in their financial ocean, but some students are concerned over the smaller ripples such as an increase in the price of text books.

However for second-year electrical engineering student Kevin Tessner, text book prices at Conestoga are cheap compared with what he paid at university

"The books were really bad there because they deliberately tried not to use the same text book twice in a row If you used a book one year and you failed the course and had to take it again it was a completely different text book which was an other $90, he said

Leslie Kern also a second year electrical engineering student said one of the books he bought at the college last semester cost him over $90

The average book for his program though is priced between $60 and $70

Because publishers keep changing editions, students do not always have the luxury of buying or selling used books.

Kern said teachers who teach the same course can sometimes have different text book preferences which can also lead students to buy additional text books

One of the computer books Kern has been using has been changed annually in the last four years which makes it difficult for students to sell their old books.

Kern said it would help students more if books were cheaper However he is not overly concerned with the possibility of book prices going up next year because "I think they ve gone up every year so far It s to be expected "

Tessner attributes the high cost of text books to the publishers who sell so few books that they have no choice but to charge an excessive amount

Second-year office administration student Jennifer Cook said "I found them a little high some of them mainly the computer ones "

Cook who holds a part time job said her next move to combat escalating prices may be to work extra hours

Second year construction engineering student Simon Arabzadeh works part-time and has two kids He too considers the cost of text books at the college excessive and hopes next year s tuition hike will not carry with it a further increase for text books

Arabzadeh suggested one way to cushion the high cost of text book expenditures would be to have a student discount of about 30 to 35 per cent

However, Chris Hoelscher a clerk at Doon s book store said the prices of books are set by the publishers not the book store The college book store she said is cheaper than going to public book stores

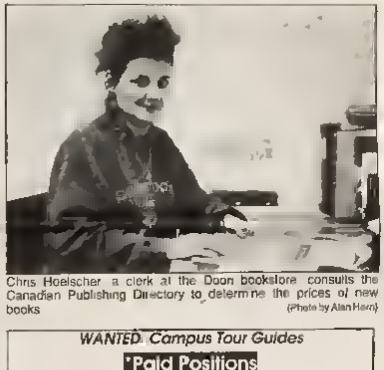
If you went to Coles and asked them to order you a book and then asked us what our price would be to you we would definitely be cheaper because we get an educational discount for being a college "

While Hoelscher did not disclose the book store s mark up she said it was "very low

Hoelscher also said the bookstore does not to get books from the U S which end up being more expensive with shipping and handling fees When the bookstore receives an order with an American address on it staff look it up in the Canadian distributer book and make attempts to have it ordered in Canada

Hoelscher said she can sympathize with students "I would not want to be going to school right now It is expensive

Will there be a text book price increase? "It will just be the normal increase in whatever the publishers do " Hoelscher said That s normally an increase of $1 or $2 on certain books



Chris Hoelscher a clerk at the Doon bookstore consults the Canadian Publishing Directory to determine the prices of new books (Photo by Alan Horn)

Career Corner

By Marilyn Snyder

INTERVIEW TIPS

For many of you, the biggest fear when approaching the interview is answering the questions Even the most qualified individual is not immune to stumbling over tough interview questions. the key to success is preparation By anticipating possible questions, you will be prepared for some of the difficult questions that might be asked during the actual interview

Of course, you won't be able to anticipate every question, but at least you will be prepared The more interviews you do the better you will become at anticipating questions.

PERSONAL PRESENTATION

You only get one chance to make a first impression and first impresssions are lasting impressions You present a good impression by your appearance, your smile, your body posture and your eye contact

BASICS FOR THE RIGHT IMAGE

Time Arrive 7 to 10 minutes early

Handshake When you enter the interviewer s office offer a firm handshake

Eyes Establish eye contact A smile helps alleviate nervousness and communicates your enthusiasm.

Speaking Speak in a clear, audible manner Vary the tone and tempo of your voice Be sincere, pleasant and tactful

Exude confidence

Body language Remain calm Keep your head up, back straight and shoulders back Never slouch

Hands Keep hands relaxed on the chair arms or in your lap Fidgeting fingers betray nervousness.

Hair Should be a suitable length, clean, tidy and brushed

Clothes Should be suitable to the environment For women, a suit or appropriate dress is best Avoid excessive make up, perfume and jewellery For men a suit is best but slacks and jackets are also acceptable with a shirt and tie For a very informal company, a pullover sweater could be substituted for a jacket Clothes should be clean and pressed and shoes should be polished Never chew gum or smoke (even if invited)

For additional information, Co-op/Placement (Rm 2B13 Inside Door #4) can assist you with your interviewing techniques in a number of ways

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Best of Luck

to all Students during Exam Week

Have a fun, & Safe Summer Holiday!

Good Luck to all Grads!

from the Doon Student Association

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Student Fax Machine - *748-6727*

- *located in the DSA Administration Office (outside the Student Lounge)*
- *Local call first page $1 each additional page 50 cents*
- *Long Distance call (519) area code first page $1.50 each additional page 99 cents*
  Other area codes $2.50 first page 99 cents each additional page
- *Incoming FAX service available*
  No Charge
  For more information see Jamie at the DSA Administration Office

Solicitor general speaks at LASA banquet

By John Ginezan

The college s law and security administration program capped off another school year when Ontario s solicitor general spoke at the annual awards banquet. The function was held April 8 at the Waterloo Inn

David Christopherson also minister of correctional services, said it s a good time to get into policing and law enforcement as a lot of opportunities are opening up.

He cited the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) where many retirements are expected in the next few years

"For those of you looking towards policing as a future that future is very bright he told the 200 students and guests

The solicitor general also stressed that employment equity in policing is something that shouldn t be feared by young people entering the field.

"It (pay equity legislation) does not say that there are X number of individuals in a community of a certain nature or racial background, and therefore by a certain date you must have that many people

OPP chief superintendent Gerald Boose also spoke at the banquet Boose a 26-year veteran gave a description of his police force and how it operates He also presented an overview of the organizational review that s taking place within the OPP

Boose entertained the gathering with a story of how he recently found himself a victim of crime when his car was found neatly placed on blocks with the wheels removed

Other dignitaries at the event included Mayor Dom Cardillo of Kitchener John Tibbits, president of the college Brantford police Chief Al Barber and Conestoga s board of governors chair Helen Friedman

Second year LASA student Joanne Hookumchand stands beside solicitor general David Christopherson and Kitchener mayor Dom Cardillo. (Photo by John Ginezan)

Following the speeches the LASA awards were given out

Bruno Miron was the big winner First year Student Award, First year Faculty Award and top ticket seller in the LASA raffle

Wayne Brunsvold received the Second year Faculty Award and Alexandar (Sashsa) Poroski took the Second year Student Award

In the LASA raffle Mike Clifford of Kitchener won the 1994 Toyota Tercel and Jennifer Roezan of Courtland Ont. won the two week trip to Barbados.

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Deadlines for orders is May 2, 1994

Board of Directors

Last meeting of the Year

All Members Please Attend

Tuesday, April 19 4 p.m.

Room 2A56

Housing organization urges students to volunteer

By Wladimir Schwelgert

Before a bridge or a home is built, an idea has to germinate

That s why representatives of Habitat for Humanity Canada were stirring the imaginations and goodwill of engineering students at Conestoga s Doon campus April 8

They hoped the students would respond with the creation of a campus chapter

Jannelle Martin, national campus co ordinator at Habitat for Humanity Canada, spoke to an estimated 30 civil engineering students who attended a meeting organized by Shiv Talwar an instructor in the civil engineering technology program

Providing information and tracing Habitat s history Martin told the audience of Habitat s main goal to help people with low incomes move into adequate housing

Habitat for Humanity Canada, with headquarters in Waterloo Ont., is an offshoot of Habitat for Humanity International an organization founded by Linda Millard Fuller in the United States in 1976

Both organizations seek to eradicate poverty housing in the world, and their campus chapter departments headed by Martin in Canada, encourage students of secondary and post secondary institutions to volunteer their time and skills

Martin related how Habitat s success has increased In the first 17 years of its existence 20 000 houses were constructed through the unique no-operative effort it has developed

Now an estimated 10,000 houses will be erected in the course of one year alone, Martin said.

Houses are not given away Through ecclesiastical, corporate and private sponsorships of materials labor and money Habitat, with the help of volunteers builds and sells houses, to qualified applicants

It doesn t strive for profits and it doesn t charge interests According to Martin, each applicant has to show a willingness and an ability to repay the house signed over to them.

The only down payment is 500 hours of work contributed to the building projects Habitat calls "Sweat equity" Money repaid is put into new projects. It is recycled "

In contrast to other parts of the world Martin said, in Canada substandard living conditions are not readily apparent. There are no shanks that pop into people s eyes here she said "They (people) sleep in star wells and cold apartments

According to "Building Tomorrow " a video shown during the presentation, 100 million people are homeless in the world and one billion people live in substandard housing

Betty Jean Rose, a volunteer for the Waterloo Region s affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada, told the future engineers "Everything is so easy for you " alluding to the ease with which students operate computers "You don t know what wonderful skills you have"

The attendance surprised and pleased Martin Aiming to establish 15 campus chapters in Canada in 1994 she said she has made presentations recently where only three people were present.

Talwar urged participants to sign a list providing their telephone numbers Bring out in the real world communicating with others and volunteering is learning he said "It s practical humanities education"

There is one campus chapter in Canada at the University of Waterloo Wilfrid Laurier students in Waterloo are in the process of establishing another Several other learning institutions in Ontario have shown interest

Perspective

Technology on Campus

Colleges of applied arts and technology face funding crunch

By Craig McLay

Community colleges are going to have to look more to the community for funding in the future, said Conestoga College president John Tibbits.

I don't see the way we're being funded now that we would be able to keep up unless we go outside the college, Tibbits said. "Technology is changing rapidly and times are tough."

Conestoga receives roughly $400,000 per year from the government to purchase all capital equipment, which includes everything from computers to industrial machinery.

"Teachers and programs really need to get closer to the industries they serve so that hopefully there are more partnerships," he said.

"It's not always absolutely necessary that students work on the latest equipment. Many local companies don't have computerized equipment and want us to spend more time on the basics."

The biggest problem is the accelerating growth and the matching prices, he said.

Keeping up-to-date with technology is a huge issue for colleges. It would be nice if technology just froze so we would keep the equipment we have, but software upgrades can happen every six months.

We could spend a million per year. Four hundred thousand is tight. There are always more needs. We don't have the kind of money we'd like to have to upgrade academic equipment.

Tibbits said one thing that is helping to alleviate the strain on finances is the $4.5 million capital development fund, a five year campaign to raise funds for the college.

Tibbits said the college fund had probably doubled over the last three years thanks to private donations.

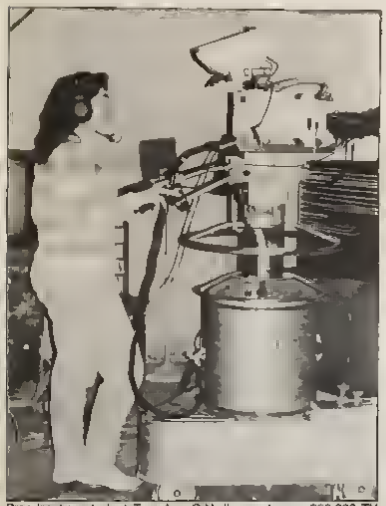
"Industry has too much at stake to ensure the quality of our graduates. If governments turn to the tap, I think the private sector will help even more."

Donations have included six cars valued at $120,000 from Toyota and Mazda, lighting and camera equipment worth $400,000 donated to the broadcasting program by Sony, $17,000 worth of free advertising in the Kitchener Waterloo Record and $150,000 worth of additions and renovations to the broadcasting facilities by CHUM radio.

"We have a lot of relationships with industry because of the program advisory committees, which will have anywhere from 12 to 15 people from the industry on them."

Another potential source of revenue in the future may be the graduates themselves.

"I think 10 or 15 years from now we could raise $1 million per year from graduates. The college has a better reputation now than it did a number of years ago. If 30,000 grads given $10 per year, that's still $300,000."



Broadcasting student Troy-Ann O'Neill operates an $80,000 TV camera donated by Sony Canada. (Photo by Julie Cooper)

College technology meets student needs

By Julie Cooper

Despite government fiscal cutbacks to colleges of applied arts and technology, the level of technology at Conestoga College is providing students with adequate skills to meet the challenges of the workplace, said college program co-ordinator.

"I think the technology we're using is reasonable, given the funds that we have," said Ken Snyder, dean of apprenticeship and trade at Conestoga's Guelph campus.

Some of the equipment in the program is 20 years old, said Snyder, but it is still suitable to train on.

Snyder said the program's technology prepares students with the basic skills they need so when they go out in the industry, the employer has a good graduate and can advance them further in their training.

"Some of the responsibility has to fall on the employer to follow up on the training that we give and the education we provide."

Zepf Technologies Inc., a local business has hired about 50 or 60 graduates of Conestoga College.

Company president Larry Zepf said the computer aided design training and robotics and computer controls for machinery are at a fairly high level.

"I have a lot of technologists (from Conestoga) all the time and they rank pretty well internationally with what they can do."

Paul Scott, co-ordinator of the broadcasting program, said the broadcasting equipment is very functional and serves the department's needs.

"In terms of our mandate of introducing students to the fundamentals the industry requires, we're OK."

A lot of the equipment in the broadcasting program is original equipment, dating back to 1970 but it is well maintained by the program's technician, Bob Currie.

"There are a lot of radio stations in this country that have equipment that is older and not in as good repair as what we have," Scott said.

The department's most pressing need, he said, is to upgrade the six 1983 IBM computers in the newsroom because they are not working as quickly or efficiently as they should.

And within the next five years the department will be faced with the challenge of getting up to speed with digital technology when this industry is in a big way," he said.

The broadcasting department has been making slow progress in upgrading its technology, said Scott. Compact disc players are located in each of the studios and it has recently acquired state of the art broadcast microphones.

The department is working in a five-year strategic plan to bring the radio facilities up to date with current broadcast standards.

Because of drastically reduced funding from the Ministry of Education, the broadcasting department relies on capital equipment donations from corporations such as Sony Canada or from the CRC.

Within the last 18 months the department has received 17 state-of-the-art Sony television cameras that are five years old and worth $800,000. It's contacts it's networking and it's who you know to talk to," Scott said.

Snyder said his department receives some donations but needs more.

"We need to be a little more aggressive. There are a lot of companies that would support us with technology if we had the right game plan and if we went out and marketed properly."

Power surge disrupts computer server

By Craig McLay

Problems with a newly-installed computer server at Conestoga College's Doon campus were due to a power surge, according to Don Chester.

Chester, head of campus computer services, said a power surge in the first week of March knocked file servers CS10 off line.

"We apparently had a power surge, and then after that a lot of technical problems," Chester said. "It just happened to be the server that was affected. It was a fluke."

Chester said it was the first time computer facilities on campus had been affected that way.

"Years ago we had a lightning strike, which caused havoc. We're assuming the power surge, because in that particular room where the servers were before this happened, the lights flashed and then everything clicked off."

The $20,000 server was installed December 24 to handle Microsoft Windows operations in 2A19 Wood Skills 7 and the third and fourth floors of B wing.

The server was installed to cope with the increase in the number of students using high-end, graphics-based programs like AutoCad and Ventura Desktop Publisher.

According to software technician Kevin MacIntyre, the surge also knocked server CS7 off line, but CS10 experienced trouble coming back on line.

"It looked like when the power bump hit, the print queue file got corrupted," MacIntyre said. "We suspect some of the memory was damaged as well."

MacIntyre said he ran memory tests on CS10 after the surge and ended up replacing a section of memory and a disk controller.

Before the repair, the server would only work for 30 seconds before crashing because it wasn't loading the files it needed to run successfully.

The server, located in room 2A05-1, carries a 486 processor, 32 megabytes of random access memory (RAM) and three 1.2 gigabyte disk drives.

Journalism co-ordinator Andrew Jankowski said he had to cancel four desktop publishing classes due to the computer failure. "Things started going awry—the system was displaying weird error messages and it couldn't find the right fonts," he said. "Printing anything out became difficult and eventually impossible."

Conestoga has a total of 13 servers, four in academic use, one for administration, three in training and development, and one each at the Guelph, Waterloo and Cambridge campuses.

A server downloads files to a group of terminals hooked up to a central network.

Stratford's Water Street campus prepares for consolidation

By William Kennedy

A chapter encompassing more than 20 years in the history of Conestoga College is drawing to a close. Time is rapidly running out for the students, faculty and staff at the Stratford campus's Water Street location.

Constructed in 1908, the Water Street building, located next door to Stratford's Festival Theatre has seen hundreds of students come through its doors during the college's occupation.

The 86-year old campus building which used to house one of Ontario's first teachers colleges, will be taken over by Stratford's Shakespearean Festival Theatre in mid-July, 1994.

"We don't have a confirmed date at this time," said Wally Ebner campus administrator for both the Stratford and Waterloo satellites of Conestoga College.

Ebner said that many of the programs now being offered at the Water Street building will continue to be offered at the School of Health Sciences site near the Stratford hospital.

"We're happy that our staff is staying in Stratford," she said. "We're just being integrated into 130 Youngs St."

The restructuring of operations at the Stratford campus was announced in September, 1993 by college president John Tabbitts, who at that time said: "We are not moving out and we are not reducing our commitment to Stratford as a community."

It was also announced that the Stratford School of Health Sciences was eliminating its registered nursing program and was planning the introduction of new health-care education programs which were to be implemented over a three-year period.

The stately Water Street building leased by Conestoga since 1973 is owned by the Ontario government's Ministry of Supply and Services.

Stratford's Festival Theatre taking over the building after Conestoga's departure, operates a bookstore and gift shop in a converted classroom on the building's ground floor.

Though the consolidation of Stratford operations represents a dramatic change in Conestoga College, those affected by the Water Street closure have had plenty of time to prepare.

"This has been announced already — last year," Ebner said. "So it's not something that's sudden."

The Water Street campus building is not the first building closure resulting from Conestoga's restructuring efforts. In 1992, the Dover Street building closed its doors with the cancellation of its carpentry program.

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WSA aims to create school spirit

By Julie Cooper

Creating school spirit and forging closer ties with the Doon Student Association (DSA) are the main objectives of the newly elected Waterloo Student Association (WSA) executive.

Last month, Bill Gaul and Jeroen Stoeltjes were elected president and vice-president (of the WSA) respectively by a process of nomination.

There was no election campaign or voting. The positions were filled by the candidates collecting the most nominations.

Gaul and Stoeltjes, both 22, are first-year students of the food and beverage management program at Waterloo campus and will assume their new positions on May 1.

Gaul said his goal as president will be to "Support the students and help them have a good college experience." As activities co-ordinator this year Gaul said he was frustrated with the lack of turnout for campus activities and pub nights. "It was a waste of the council's time to organize them when no one was going to show up.

The easiest way to improve school spirit, Gaul said, is to organize events that will appeal to all the students not just those in their early 20s.

"We have a lot of older students and most of them come to school and then go home. They don't really care about after school activities."

Stoeltjes, who was a student representative for his program this year, said the council will be seeking more input from students on events they would like to see happen.

As president, Gaul said one of his main objectives is to create a closer working relationship between the WSA and the DSA.

He said he would like to see the two associations work together in organizing events for the entire college. "We are all Conestoga College so we should all be unified. Even if we just have one pub every six months with Doon it would go a long way to make everybody feel a part of Conestoga."

WSA president Bill Gaul

Gaul said that while the DSA advertises events at Waterloo campus, tickets are only available at Doon.

"Students don't want to have to drive 30 minutes to Doon to get one or two tickets. I feel that the DSA should send us 20 tickets for events (such as the Blue Jay games) that we have to purchase from them and if we don't sell them all, that's our own fault. It would help them as much as it would help us."

Gaul said he will be discussing the proposal with the DSA's new president Sabina Kampf, with whom he attended high school in Port Elgin.

The WSA is looking for two people to fill the positions of activities co-ordinator and secretary/treasurer. Anyone interested can obtain an application form at the WSA office.

Jeroen Stoeltjes, newly elected WSA vice-president.

PUBLISHERS' BOOK FAIR

The Doon Learning Resource Centre

will be hosting the

Annual Publishers Book Fair

MONDAY MAY 9 1994

9 30 a.m. - 4 00 p.m.

Blue Room Cafeteria Doon Campus

Remember keep this date free!

Whooping it up with Winnie

Jennifer McNabb (left) and Robin Lawson, both first year early childhood education students pose with Winnie the Pooh. The two students took part in a class project which required them to expand on a children's story through the use of props. (Photo by Alan Ham)

OSAP BULLETIN

If you have NOT received your pre-printed application form for the 1994-95 academic year and you are a returning student, regular application forms will be available in the registrar's office the 2nd week of April.

ENTERTAINMENT

Threesome is a must-see

By Colleen Connachan

The title of this movie may get you imagining three naked frantically energetic people running around their college dorm in an Animal House like setting.

Threesome is a film that symbolizes one decade's practice of sexual freedom. Each character reveals different characteristics of people in society today involving their actions and philosophies towards relationships, sexual energy, love versus lust, infatuation versus love, rejection, and finding your true sexual preference.

The film stars Lara Flynn Boyle, Josh Charles and Stephen Baldwin as three roommates stuck together in one college dorm after an administration mix up.

The three roommates develop a bond as friends with underlying lust and emotion toward one another. The film depicts a perfect triangle shaping these relationships with many confusing barriers and frustrations.

A certain twist which links this film to the sexual practices and freedoms of the 90s occurs when Eddy (Charles) emerges from his shell to admit he has homosexual tendencies.

After giving up on girls, as he puts it, he finds himself being attracted and sexually aroused by his roommate Stuart (Baldwin).

Eddy, who is the narrator of the film, reveals his daily thoughts and questions about his drive toward men rather than women. As he says to Alex (Boyle), he does not hate women but instead is scared of what women have to offer.

Alex on the other hand pines for Eddy's attention while being turned down throughout the film. She tries to lure Eddy with her sexual appeal only to be rejected time after time.

Even after Eddy finally tells Alex about his preference, she tries to convince herself and Eddy that with time and energy she can bring him back to the world of heterosexuality.

As for Stuart, his lifestyle shows a typical college student with raging hormones living in co-ed dorms. His relationships are trivial to him as he is filled with one overbearing sensation of sexual energy without any emotional attachment.

It seems as if the whole relationship between the roommates is an individual struggle for each character because the intentions of each are different.

The experiences the three roommates have with one another are meaningful for the time in each character's life. The ins and outs of each relationship have helped them grow and move in new directions.

The novelty of their sexual expression with one another fades as Alex moves to an off campus location, Stuart moves to another dorm and Eddy is left to his single dorm room.

It was never the same for the three roommates, says Eddy at the end of the film.

He put the reality of their relationship into perspective by questioning why bonds between friends seem so real and important at the time, only to vanish, leaving one with fond memories.

Threesome is a film that people will have no trouble relating to. It is filled with humor and tiny quirks people have with one another during those precious years of college life.

Thanks to all who donated to the Spring Student Food Bank Drive
Your donations are greatly appreciated
We are still accepting donations of canned goods
Please drop off at the DSA Activities Office or Student Services.
If you are in need of the Food Bank Service,
please contact Student Services

Used Textbook Sale

Tuesday, August 30 and Wednesday, August 31
Student Lounge
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Students can drop off old textbooks to be sold
at the DSA Administration Office outside the Student Lounge
Consignment fee applicable
TEXTBOOK DROPOFF DATES
Monday, April 25 - Friday, May 13
Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 15
Monday, August 15 - Monday, August 29
*Books will not be accepted after Monday, August 29
For more information call the DSA Office at 748-5131

Comedian Mark Farrell poses after his April 7 nooner in the cafeteria (Photo by Blair Matthews)

Noon-time funnies return

By Julie Cooper

"Doctors always use bigger words than they have to, to make your illness sound worse than it is. I had a problem with my ear and the doctor looks in and says, 'Mark, you've got a perforation in your eardrum.' 'Perforation? Don't you mean hole?' 'Perforation is the correct term.' 'OK, I didn't know that, doc. Do you play golf? You do? Ever get a perforation in-one?'"

Comedian Mark Farrell brought his comedy act to Doon campus on April 7, and kept the lunch time crowd giddy with laughter.

During his 30-minute set, the Toronto based comedian pondered why there are no Top Gun schools for blimp pilots, satirized electro-shock treatment for depression ("I'm gonna shock you until you cheer up") and complained about the impossibility of explaining a Far Side cartoon to someone who just doesn't get it. ("There should be a Far Side helpline: 1-800-I'm a moron.")

The 28 year-old comedian categorizes his comedy as quasi-observational, taking observational humor to an absurd level. His act is full of witty musings and observations.

"The only animal that needs a psychiatrist is the male ladybug. It's got some serious gender identification problems — I'm a guy and I'm a ladybug, which bathroom do I use?"

Farrell, who has an honors bachelor of science degree from Dalhousie University, began his stand up career in Toronto six years ago. His worst show, he admits, was in front of 9,000 people between periods of a hockey game. He received just one laugh during the entire performance.

But success has caught up with Farrell and he is now well established on the Canadian comedy circuit. He was featured in the first installment of CBC's Comics series and his routines have been televised on the Arts and Entertainment shows Comedy on the Road and Evening at the Improv.

Farrell also wrote the script for the Gemini Awards broadcast last January and said he hopes to get more writing gigs here or in the United States while still doing stand up.

Farrell is often compared to Jerry Seinfeld but said, "I might sound like him but I don't think we do the same kind of things at all. I think my comedy is more storytelling than his is, but it's great to be compared to him."

Inspiration for his jokes usually comes from things that make him angry, which he reads in the news or overhears people saying.

"I try to find out what I'd say either sarcastically back or if it were a court, how I would break them down in testimony. I try to make things make sense and that's when the humor comes out."

But, he admits he likes to get people laughing "about really ghastly stuff like suicide and execution, and have it be commercially acceptable at the same time."

Farrell considers himself a stand up purist and prefers a minimalist approach to comedy—one person and a microphone.

When he was growing up, he admired comedians who could entertain people with just words and body movements, without relying on props.

"Someone who goes onstage with just the microphone and gets the laughs from the words and the acting is my favorite thing to watch."

Henry Rollins: the man rages on

By Craig McLay

Henry Rollins is not what you would call a slacker. Not to his face anyway.

Since his early days with the pioneering Los Angeles hardcore punk band Black Flag, Rollins has kept his life moving at a brutal pace.

Rollins is nothing if not diverse. Since Black Flag folded in 1986, he has found time to start his own book and video publishing company (2.13.61 — named for his birthdate), write 11 books, put out six spoken word albums, start the Rollins Band, put out 7 more albums, play 162 shows, appear in The Chase with Charlie Sheen and a video with Iggy Pop, sign a recording deal with Imago Records, do a voice-over for a Gap ad and be killed by Dolph Lundgren in his latest acting role.

Rollins is most often portrayed as angry, unhappy and self abusive. None of this gets to the core of a man who can talk about his latest accidentally self inflicted head wound in a room with 30 strangers ("You don't need to get somebody else to kick my ass. I'll do it myself") and still find it funny.

The Rollins Band, also made up of guitarist Chris Haskett, drummer Sim Cain, newly added bassist Melvin Gibbs and soundman Theo Van Rock, play furious tunes that run off the rails, rip up the ground and flatten some icons along the way.

Their latest album, Weight (the follow up to 1992's The End of Silence) hits stores April 12.

According to Rollins, the album is not so much a departure as it is a progression.

"We figure the most musically honest thing we could do was drop all of our old material. We're not trying to rest on dubious laurels with a greatest hits package — bands like us don't have greatest hits anyway," he said.

"Song arrangement wise, the stuff is more concise. We lost a lot of sludge. It's not like a tank that only goes eight miles per hour but will run over anything, it's more of a sleek animal with speed that can stop and turn on a dime."

The band took the unusual step of recording the album at Echo Creek Ranch near Lake Tahoe, Fla., using remote equipment.

"I wouldn't want to go back into a studio after this. This was too good. Recording studios are not really conducive to any fun vibe. It's like recording in a doctor's office."

The band has one confirmed Canadian tour date at The Concert Hall in Toronto May 16 (with Irish industrial band Therapy?)

"We're coming here in May. We could very easily play a 15 song set with nine old songs and six new ones and no one in the audience would bat an eye. Bands do that every year. We just decided to play the new stuff, take it or leave it."

Some of this new stuff includes the song "Liar" (the video is directed by U2 and Depeche Mode video alumnus Anton Corbijn), a song Rollins enjoys because of its honesty.

"I've never heard anyone in a song go 'Yeah, I'm messing with your head. I get off on it, and if you let me I'll do it again.' The song is utterly remorseless, but how sorry can you feel for the person who's being lied to? It's like those relationships where the girl always has the black eye. If my girlfriend ever hit me in the eye, I'd be outta there."

For Rollins, music has always been about exorcising personal demons, not making money.

"I've been told that I sold out since I was 20. These are people who usually live at home with their parents and can afford some angst. To me it's coffee table bullshit punk rock. It's like real punk bands sit around in basements and starve."

What money Rollins does make he channels back into his publishing company, not his ego.

"I think when you sell out is when you compromise your ideals and message to get to a certain place in the industry. I'm sure if we wrote a sappy power ballad with four overdubbed acoustic guitars, the record company president would love it. I don't want money that bad. I need it because I pay the rent and put out my book projects with it, but I've never compromised one iota to get it."

Rollins said he has about two or three albums left in him before he packs the music in to give full attention to his other interests.

"Believe me, I'm not gonna hang around and milk it. The Rolling Stones should give it up. Pete Townshend should give it up. I'm 33 now. I don't have it in me to give 150 per cent 300 shows per year."

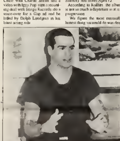
Reaction to the Rollins Band's brand of grinding punk rock has varied from 12-page letters that began "I have you tattooed on my arm!" to "Here's why you suck."

"Being on a stage playing in front of thousands of people every year for the last 15 years, I've had a lot of adoration and hatred thrown at me, like three bouncers having to hold a guy back because he wants to kick my ass so bad. Why? Something I said?"

The only time during the press conference that Rollins appeared nervous was when he talked about an upcoming scene in a movie he's shooting in Toronto.

"I have to be killed in the film by Dolph Lundgren," he grinned.

And apparently he doesn't know his own strength when he's shooting scenes like that.



Henry Rollins sits back and chats with reporters during a press conference in Toronto March 31 (Photo by Julie Cooper)

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Scott Herniman	Trent Hilpert	James Hislop
Jeff Irvine	Marc Kaufman	Kevin Kocher
Brett Long	Curtis McCone	Mauel Navas
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Brian Carson	Elenor Chrysifadis	Carol Dawson
Dino Delegians	Shane Desjardins	Klaus Draxler
Diana Dumancic	Mike Hunt	Darrin Kinnear
Vladimir Koledin	Contara Kachenoslnski	Sandra McDougall
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